Pending power projects

3666. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some power projects are lying pending for the last over 20 years and have caused an additional burden of Rs. 12,000 crore on Government;

(b) if so, the details of all such power projects and the factors responsible for causing delay in their completion; and

(c) how much more time is required to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) In the Central Sector, Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (390 MW) is the only project lying pending for more than 20 years. The project was accorded investment approval in November, 1982 with an estimated cost of Rs. 183.45 crore. Prolonged negotiations were held to finalize turnkey execution of the project with financing. The contract was awarded to a French Consortium in 1989 for turnkey execution of the project with commissioning schedule in July, 1994. Due to increased militant activities in the project area, the French Consortium stopped the work in August, 1992. The recession agreement was signed in June, 1995 allowing civil contractor to go out of the contract. The works were taken up by new civil contractor in April, 1997. The works have suffered continuously on account of disturbed law and order situation and restricted working hours due to night curfew. Besides, there have been slippages due to poor geological conditions in the head race tunnel. The Tunnel Boring Machine was buried in February, 2000 and thereafter tunneling was restarted with drill blasting method. The works are now in progress and the project is expected to be commissioned in 2005-06. The cost is now anticipated as Rs. 4819.16 crores.

Financial crisis of SEBs

3667. SHRI N.R GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Electricity Boards in the country are facing acute financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a separate fund to improve the financial problems of State Electricity Boards; and